

Weatherization: Wyoming's Hidden Resource

Wyoming is often heralded for its majestic natural resources and abundant mineral supply. Millions of tourists flock to Wyoming every year to visit Yellowstone National Park and experience the geothermal wonder. These impressive sights often overshadow one of Wyoming's greatest resources: Weatherization. Wyoming partners with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to deliver the Weatherization Assistance Program (Weatherization). Weatherization reduces energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, while ensuring their health and safety. The program is one of Wyoming's most valuable, hidden resources.

Low-income households typically spend 14% of their total annual income on energy, compared with 3.5% for other households. This burden becomes even more unmanageable when energy prices soar or temperatures drop. Low-income families often have to cut back on other necessities to pay their energy bills. Weatherization measures reduce home energy consumption, which provides a permanent boost to the household's budget.

Wyoming's Weatherization Program prioritizes services to the elderly, people with disabilities, and families with children. These low-income households are often on fixed incomes or rely on income assistance programs and are most vulnerable to volatile changes in energy markets. Weatherization measures provide long-term relief for low-income families and protect against future fluctuations in energy prices and supplies.

Wyoming's Department of Family Services administers the Weatherization Program and a network of four regional offices and ten local agencies delivers energy efficiency services to every county in the state.

NATIONAL WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

Homes weatherized in 1999	68,000
DOE allocations in 1999	\$135 million
Average annual energy cost savings per household	\$300
Average space heating savings	25-30%
Energy benefits returned for every \$1 invested	\$2.10
Jobs supported	7,000

WYOMING

Homes weatherized in 1999 (with DOE \$)	236
DOE funding in 1999	\$691,767
Clients served in 1999	541
Elderly	12%
People with disabilities	11%
Families with children	31%

STRETCHING VALUABLE RESOURCES

Wyoming is the nation's top producer of coal. The state ranks fifth in the nation for natural gas production and sixth for oil. Wyoming uses these natural resources to fuel its local economy and also exports energy to neighboring states. Weatherization measures make these valuable resources go farther by increasing the efficient use of energy.

Weatherization crews use computerized energy audits and advanced diagnostic equipment, such as the blower door and digital manometer, to determine the most cost-effective measures appropriate for each home. Technicians test heating units and appliances for carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless gas that can be deadly in large quantities. Wyoming crews also check electrical circuits for safety hazards.

After performing diagnostic tests and conducting the audit, weatherization measures are installed. Typical weatherization services include installing insulation; sealing and balancing ducts; cleaning and repairing heating systems; and mitigating heat loss through windows, doors, and other infiltration points. Weatherization

crews also install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to prevent future health and safety hazards. Following this work, clients are educated on the proper use and maintenance of the measures installed.

Wyoming prides itself on the professionalism and courtesy of its workforce. Weatherization crews receive technical training at national conferences, regional training meetings, and in the field. These highly skilled technicians provide comprehensive energy efficiency solutions for low-income families.

Because the demand for weatherization services fluctuates by season, Wyoming is developing plans to sponsor furnace inspections and cleanings during the spring and summer. This approach will detect and solve furnace problems before a crisis arises and help to maintain a level workload for crew members.

BOUNTIFUL SOURCE OF COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Weatherization measures create benefits for the entire community. Up to 80% of the money spent on energy in low-income communities immediately leaves the area. By reducing energy bills for low-income families, weatherization reduces the export of energy dollars and keeps more money

in the local economy, which boosts growth and creates additional jobs. Every \$1 retained in the community produces an estimated \$3 in multiplier benefits. Weatherization crews also serve as an energy efficiency resource to the community. Local agencies can bridge the delivery gap between federal, state, and community programs and agencies.



Weatherization crew diagnoses air infiltration and pressure imbalances in a mobile home.

In addition, reducing residential energy demand decreases electricity generation and avoids emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, and other pollutants. This improves local air quality and reduces adverse health effects, particularly asthma. Weatherization measures also mitigate residential and power plant emissions of greenhouse gases. Weatherization reduces annual carbon dioxide emissions by an average of one metric ton per weatherized home.

WEATHERIZATION WORKS!

Weatherization produces an impressive range of benefits for low-income households and communities. Nationally, for every \$1 invested in the program, Weatherization returns \$2.10 in energy-related benefits. Weatherization measures reduce national energy consumption and curb demand for imported oil. Weatherization works for Wyoming and America!



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, CONTACT:

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Visit the Weatherization Web site at: www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/weatherization_assistance
or call the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse at: 1-800-DOE-3732



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